



TVFF Club News

December 2022



TVFF Christmas Social Thursday December 15th 7:00 PM



White Elephant (Dirty Santa) Gift Exchange

The meeting in December will be replaced with the Club's Christmas Social. We will not have a speaker but will have lots of fish stories and refreshments.

This year there will be a White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Anyone interested in participating in the exchange

should bring a wrapped gift (something related to fly fishing) worth up to \$20. Go to [page 5](#) for rules on how to play. Come join the fun. The Club will provide drinks and members are encouraged to bring their favorite munchies to share. See you there!



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Welcome New Members:
Merry Christmas to all!

This Month

Faith Presbyterian Church Rm 201

- December 8 – Fly Tying, 7 PM
- December 15 – TVFF Meeting, 7 PM
- December 22 – No tying, Merry Christmas!

Officers and Directors

President: Steve Kerkhof
Vice President: Dana Beyerle
Secretary: Gary Jedlovec
Treasurer: Dave Bailey
Membership: Debbie Hill
Activities: Larry Hice
Education: Fred Kaufmann
Conservation: Bob Lowery
Communications: Connor Baker

Board of Directors Meeting

The next BOD meeting is this month, February 2, 2022, at 7 p.m. in Room 201.

TVFF Fly Tying Group

Fly tying sessions will be conducted at Faith Presbyterian Church, Room 201, at 7 p.m.



December 8, 7 PM

Deer Hair Snowman – Tyer: Connor Baker

Cost: \$2.00 in person

We are going to mix it up this year! Instead of the Christmas Tree, we are going to try a snowman. This is a simple, but festive fly, good practice for spinning deer hair.

For demonstration of this fly, check out Fly Fishing the Ozarks [YouTube Video](#).

Materials

Body: White Deer Hair

Hook: Flymen Fish Spines

Thread: White Thread, 210 Denier (so not to break thread)

Eyes: Black Foam

Nose: Orange Foam



December 22, 7 PM

No tying – Merry Christmas!

Tie your favorite Christmas fly and send it to editor@tvff.club



Photo Credit: [Orvis](#)

All are welcome! Fly tying equipment is available for new tyers. Come and discover the joy of catching fish on a fly you tied or, better yet, one of your own design. The sessions are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7 p.m.



Fish of the Month

This month, must have been slow fishing! We did not receive as much as we normally do! We love to see what TVFF members catch. Please submit photos to editor@tvff.club.



This month, TVFF member Connor Baker, fished the Tellico River with his father. Each caught their fair share of trout. The weather was cold and it was rainy, but the fishing was steady throughout the entire weekend. A few fish were caught on dry flies, but the majority were caught on small egg pattern nymphs. Tellico is a beautiful place and always productive fishing. It is fun for fly fishers in the Winter because of the delayed harvest regulation.





November TVFF Recap

November 11th – Annual Auction and Banquet

Last month we had our annual TVFF Banquet and Auction! It was a lot of fun. We had Ted's Barbecue catered, our members brought some delicious desserts, and Victor Luna led us in the auction. This year, there were many great items up for auction. Several fly rods, reels, fly tying benches, hundreds of flies (including Ted Crona's famous flies), and much more.

This is a special event we have almost every year. A lot of fish stories are shared and new friendships are made. The auction is our greatest source of income for the club and this year was very successful. Thank you to everyone that bid on items, and a special thank you to everyone that brought in items. Also, thank you to everyone that helped set it up! We hope all our TVFF members had a great Thanksgiving!





Dirty Santa Gift Exchange

Join the fun! Bring a wrapped gift of modest value (\$20 or less), either serious or gag gift, and be prepared to “steal” a more “desirable” gift as the game progresses. Gifts should be suitable for a mixed audience.

The more times a gift is stolen the greater the enjoyment, but remember, after a gift has been stolen 3 times, it’s frozen and can no longer be stolen. So there is strategy involved. How to steal the gift you really want on that 3rd and final time?

Each game participant will receive a free ticket for the “Dirty Santa” Gift drawing. So come and join us as we celebrate Christmas in a uniquely fly fishing way.

DIRTY SANTA

- Place wrapped gifts in the middle of the circle.
- Each guest draws a number.
- #1 chooses a gift, unwraps it, shows it off, and puts it on display. *Gifts must stay in view at all times and remain in their original packaging.*
- #2 chooses to either steal #1's gift or picks a new one.
- #3 chooses to steal #1 or #2's gift or selects a new gift.
- If #3 steals #1's gift, #1 can either steal #2's gift or choose an unopened gift.
- A gift can not be stolen back during the same turn. Example: If #3 steals #2's gift, #2 can not steal the gift back until the next turn.
- A gift can be stolen up to three times before it is frozen. *The gift is frozen with the fourth owner.*
- If #1 has the same gift they started with, *and no one has stolen from them*, they get to trade with any unfrozen gift.
- This is where the game ends! We hope it was filled with lots of laughter!

Ho! Ho! Ho!



Fly Fishing Legend Dave Whitlock Passes Away

Legendary fisherman Dave Whitlock passed away November 24th. The Oklahoma native was well known for his writing, fly tying and art. He authored books on fishing for bass, trout, blue gill, etc. He fished his native waters of Oklahoma and Arkansas, as well as around the world. He is a member of the IGFA Hall of Fame and is regarded as one of the most influential fly anglers, up there with Lefty Kreh and Lee Wulff. Dave Whitlock will be missed. The excerpt below is from Dave and his wife's [Facebook Page](#):

It breaks my heart to let you know that we lost Dave last night to a massive stroke. He was working on his boat next to our casting pond when it hit, and was flown to Tulsa for care. But he broke the tippit and drifted gently back to the deep water, the wild that he loved and spent a lifetime exploring, writing and painting about.

We shared 30 wonderful years together and I was able to see, first hand, the huge mark he made on our sport. He was so honored when Fly Fisherman Magazine recently named him as one of four greats that make up the Mt. Rushmore of fly fishing. But I think he left an even bigger mark on those who knew him and who got to share a river with him. The shimmering leap of a trout, the heavy pull of a largemouth or the feisty dance of a bluegill were things that he dearly loved, made his heart race and brought out his big smile...every time!

I can't fathom life without him yet. For all these years we have done everything together. But, if I learned one thing from Dave, (and I learned many), it is to take on each day with willingness and curiosity and go out there and keep casting forward.

My kids are here with their arms around me and I'll reach out when I can. We will come together for a celebration of Dave's life, but we don't know when that will be just yet. Thanks to all of you who have touched our lives so profoundly.

*With love,
Emily*

Dave Whitlock will be missed, but his contributions to the fly fishing community will live on!

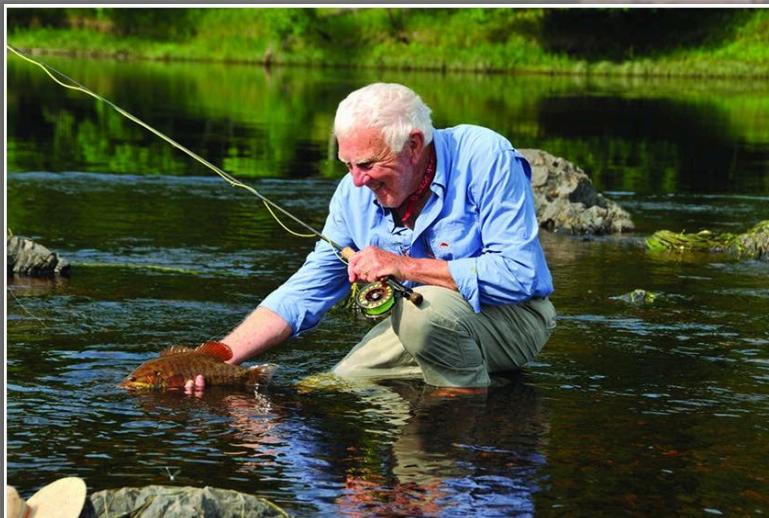


Photo Credit: [Facebook](#)

Stocking Grayling in Big Hole Tributaries

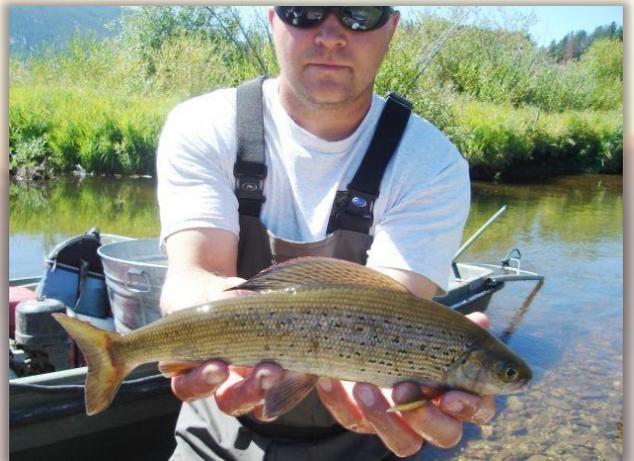
This article was sent over by TVFF member Debbie Hill. The Big Hole River is one of Joe Tremblay's favorite spots to fish. He would frequently visit his brother-in-law who lives up in Montana to fish with him. Joe and his brother-in-law, Mike Pratt, both were lucky enough to catch one of these fish! The entire article, written by Duncan Adams, can be found at the [Montana Standard](#) website.

The imperiled status of the river-dwelling population of Arctic grayling in Montana continues to roil the waters of public debate about the fate of the species' survivors in the Big Hole River.

The latest wrangle focuses on the utility or futility of stocking grayling in a Big Hole watershed creek and tributaries during a time of low flows and warm water.

This fall, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks released Arctic grayling fingerlings into a section of French Creek previously treated to remove non-native fish. The fingerlings stocked a portion of the creek above a fish barrier designed to keep non-native fish from swimming upstream.

French Creek flows into Deep Creek, which is a tributary of the Big Hole — the river that hosts the last population in the Lower 48 of fluvial, or river-dwelling, Arctic grayling.



During the spring and summer of 2023, the agency plans to stock Arctic grayling fingerlings into French Creek and a few of its tributaries.

"Introductions [of the grayling] into unoccupied tributaries to the Big Hole River are intended to expand the fish's distribution, not enhance the mainstem population," said Morgan Jacobsen, a spokesman for FWP's Region 3.

Grayling eggs used to grow the fingerlings are sourced from Axolotl Lake, which is southeast of Virginia City.

"Each year, crews go to Axolotl Lakes and collect fertilized eggs from the lake, and the fertilized eggs go to [the Yellowstone River Trout Hatchery] in Big Timber to be reared," Jacobsen said.

"The Axolotl brood was formed from the Big Hole River and is periodically infused with genes from the river to ensure the brood is genetically as close as possible to the wild fish in the river," he said.

The rest of the article can be found [here](#).

A Giant Fish Helps Save the Rainforest (AP News)

The following article from the Associated Press, authored by Fabiano Maisonnave and Jorge Saenz, discusses the notorious giant Amazon fish, the arapaima. In recent years, there has been more interest by anglers in trying to catch this fish. Previous issues of Fly Fisherman Magazine detailed a [trip to the Amazon looking for arapaima](#).

CARAUARI, Brazil (AP) — Even in the most biodiverse rainforest of the world, the pirarucu, also known as arapaima, stands out.

First, there is its mammoth size: It can weigh up to 200 kilos (440 pounds), by far the largest of 2,300 known fish species in the Amazon. It is found primarily in floodplain lakes across the Amazon basin, including the region of Medio Jurua.

Second, the giant fish not so long ago nearly vanished from Jurua, as vessels swept the lakes with large nets. The illegal and unsustainable fishing left river and Indigenous communities struggling to catch their staple food. And it left pirarucu designated as threatened with extinction, unless trade in the fish is closely controlled by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

But now something remarkable has happened. The fish has come back to the lakes of Medio Jurua. The story of how involves people of different backgrounds cooperating on many levels — a vision of what's possible that veterans of the Amazon say they've seen nowhere else across the vast region.



Photo Credit: [Fly Lords](#)

Change began in the late 1990s. With the assistance of a Dutch Catholic priest, rubber tappers organized and led a campaign to persuade the federal government to create the Medio Jurua Extractive Reserve. They proposed that river communities could take from the forest and its lakes — up to a point — and within protected areas.

It worked. Now, local communities produce açai, vegetable oils and rubber, and they leave the forest standing. Most successful of all has been the management of pirarucu.

Riverine settler communities, organized into associations, also reached agreement with neighboring Deni Indigenous people, who have suffered in the past from invasions by rubber-tappers and fishermen. Now they are part of the managed fishing of pirarucu, which improved relations between Indigenous people and non-Indigenous.

The entirety of this article can be found [here](#).

Trout Stocked at Madison County Public Fishing Lake

Trout fishing season at Madison County Public Fishing Lake (PFL) will begin on **Friday, November 25, 2022**. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries plans to stock over 3,000 pounds of rainbow trout in Madison County PFL during the trout season with trout ranging in size from one to two pounds. A \$5.00 Daily Trout Permit in addition to a valid freshwater fishing license is required to fish for trout. Trout anglers may also fish for bass, bluegill, catfish, and crappie. The daily creel limit is 4 trout per angler. Check their [website](#) for directions and hours of operation, which are limited, so check before you go.



The Fly Fishing Show in Atlanta, GA

The Fly Fishing Show will be back in 2023. The Atlanta dates are set for February 3, 4, and 5 at the Gas South Convention Center. Adult tickets are \$18 for one day passes, \$28 for two days, and \$38 for three days. Tickets can be purchased on their [website](#). There are a lot of neat items for sale and many opportunities to learn. If you have time, make the three and a half hour drive from Huntsville!



Fly Line Recycling

Flyvines is a Montana company that “upcycles” used fly line into bracelets, lanyards, dog collars, sunglass straps and other useful items that give used fly line a second life. The picture shows used fly line collected by TVFF in 2019 that didn’t end up in a landfill. The pandemic kept us from doing that in 2020 but we’d like to participate again this year. If you respool your fly reels with new line then please coil it up and bring it to us. TVFF will pack it in a box and send it Flyvines. It is a small thing you can do to be kind to the environment and support our conservation efforts.



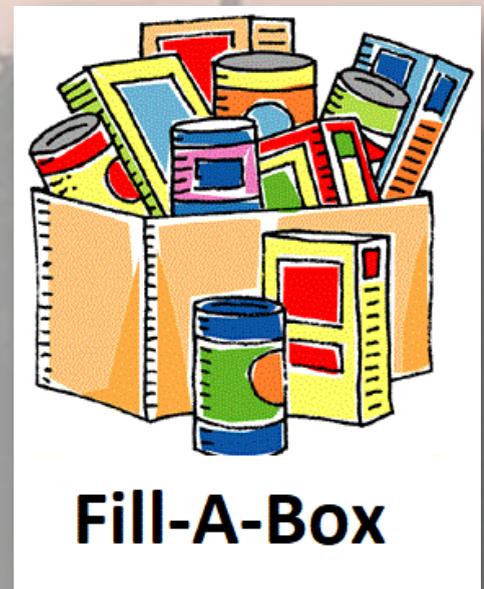
Casting for Recovery Fly Boxes

On the right is one of the 14 fly boxes that TVFF donated to the Alabama Casting for [Recovery](https://castingforrecovery.org/) retreat. TVFF is always looking for more flies to add to the box for future events. If interested, choose a fly and tie or purchase 14 of them. When you have your set or multiple sets of 14 flies ready for collection, bring them to any club activity or contact Casting for Recovery [volunteer Debbie Hill](https://castingforrecovery.org/). TVFF will provide the boxes for your donated flies. This fall we will be filling the fly boxes that will be donated to the Alabama Casting for Recovery retreat. Debbie keeps a list of flies that have been tied or purchased, but duplicates are welcome. <https://castingforrecovery.org/>



Food Drive Box

Faith Presbyterian Church has a community food drive box outside of the church, in their parking lot. This box receives and distributes food staple items to members of the community in need. If you would like to help, please bring non-perishable items to place in the box. Faith Presbyterian Church has generously let us use Room 201 for years. The least we can do is provide food to members of their church community in need.



December Holidays

Winter Solstice

Date When Celebrated : December 21, 2019

Winter Solstice marks the beginning of winter and is the shortest day of the year.

On this day, it seems as if the nighttime darkness lasts all day and all night. At the North Pole, the sun never rises on this day.

It is not the coldest days of winter, as the northern hemisphere continues to lose more heat than it gains. This will continue until late in winter, as the longer daylight hours at that point begin to have a net warming affect. But for now, heat up a cup of hot chocolate and put another log on the fire! Winter will be here for a while.

By the way, while the northern hemisphere is experiencing it's shortest day, the southern hemisphere is basking in sunshine and enjoying the first day of summer. For thousands of years, Winter Solstice has celebrated the new solar year. It celebrates the return of the sun, as every day now will see more sun. The sun is at it's southernmost point, and now begins it's long, six month journey north. Winter Solstice is also been known as Christmas, Yule, and Saturnalia.

*As the sun's rays warm
the winter landscape in
anticipation of the
coming spring I send
blessings to you and
yours for a beautiful
Winter Solstice.*



Festivus - It's for the Rest of Us!

Date When Celebrated : December 22

Are you feeling a little left out!? You don't celebrate Christmas or Chanukah. Kwanzaa just isn't your thing. and, you don't even know what Ramadan is. Then, come and experience the joy and the Miracle of Festivus. One might say that the Festivus holiday is a miracle in itself.

Still not sure if Festivus is for you? It's non-denominational. So, everyone can partake. The Festivus slogan is "A Festivus for the rest of us!".

The Origin of Festivus Holiday: Festivus came into being as the direct result of a Jerry Seinfeld television show episode. It first aired on December 18, 1997. The holiday was promoted by Kramer (who else!?)

The Festivus holiday was created by Seinfeld show scriptwriter Daniel O'Keefe. His dad, also named Daniel, had found reference to an obscure holiday called Festivus, which was first celebrated in 1966.

Festivus Traditions: No, there isn't a Festivus Tree. Rather, an unadorned aluminum pole is the symbol of Festivus. The Festivus holiday is celebrated with a dinner. Meatloaf is the suggested main course (I betcha can't wait for a slice of that!). Dinner is followed by a "Feats of Strength". Another popular Festivus tradition, is an "Airing of Grievances". This is where you can tell someone how disappointed you are over what they did or didn't do during the past year.



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